

**CLEAN VERSION OF AMENDMENTS**

Amend claims 1-4 as follows:

1. (twice amended) An orotidine-5'-phosphate decarboxylase gene having the sequence SEQ ID NO: 1 which is isolated from microorganisms.
2. (amended) An orotidine-5'-phosphate decarboxylase gene having the sequence SEQ ID NO: 1 which is isolated from *Ashbya gossypii*.
3. (amended) An isolated amino-acid sequence encoded by a gene or its homologs as claimed in claim 1.
4. (amended) An isolated amino-acid sequence as claimed in claim 3, which comprises an enzymatically active protein.

Add new claims 16 and 17 as follows:

16. (new) Homologs having 80% homology with the orotidine-5'-phosphate decarboxylase gene claimed in claim 1.
17. (new) Homologs of the orotidine-5'-phosphate decarboxylase gene claimed in claim 2.